

# NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

A newsletter dedicated to keeping Renton's communities informed

Issue 2, January 2009

## Neighborhoods Weather the Storms

Snow, wind, ice and rain with flooding on top of that...has made for an interesting winter thus far! Despite the cold fury of Mother Nature, several neighborhoods made the most of the inclement winter weather by continuing or starting new traditions and by being thankful that they are Renton residents!

Check out these comments from the community...

**MUCH** thanks to the City for providing a little winter attention to our neighborhood in December. Trucks spread de-icer and sand and made another pass through just before garbage/recycle pick up; your timing was perfect. The activity was much appreciated by all. We are a newly annexed area and have never had this done for us before. Roads in the neighborhood are much safer as a result. Please extend our sincere thanks to those involved.

- **James Feider, Chinquapin Ridge resident**

**KUDOS** to Renton for taking great care of our roads in the December storm! The main hills were plowed and sanded and they even did my little road. Even though our neighborhood wasn't too hard to get around in, others were. A few residents that have helped with our Park Project (through the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program) weren't able to make it to their families for Christmas. We invited them to our house for a Neighborhood Holiday Dinner! It's the little steps that lead to great friendships!

- **Clint Maurer, Tiffany Park Neighborhood resident**

**I LIVE IN** one of the new neighborhoods that Renton recently annexed. During the December snows, I enjoyed getting around my area on X-country skis. Early on I skied out to 140th Way SE and was delighted to see that it had been plowed and sanded so promptly. I also noticed that the plow left a large wall of snow at the main entrance to our neighborhood. I rounded up 3 men from my area and we all shoveled an in/out path for cars to navigate through. I met a few new faces in my neighborhood, burned up some holiday calories and gave my abs a terrific workout!

- **Sandra Tone, Maple Ridge Estates resident**



Trees engulfed by the Cedar River behind the Renton Senior Activity Center

### Neighborhood Figures for '08 are Great!

- 47** Recognized Neighborhoods
- 8** New Recognized Neighborhoods
- 21** Neighborhood Liaisons
- 2** Neighborhood Program staff
- 14** Neighborhood Grants awarded
- 10** Neighborhood Newsletter Grants awarded

### Save the Date!

#### NEIGHBORS MEETING NEIGHBORS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

This is the perfect opportunity to connect with other neighborhood leaders in the City of Renton. Learn where other "recognized neighborhoods" are, share concerns and become informed on City of Renton services.

**Saturday, February 21,  
2009**

**8:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Renton Senior Activity Center  
211 Burnett Avenue North

For more information or to RSVP, please email [Norma McQuiller](mailto:NormaMcQuiller@rentonwa.gov), Neighborhood Program Coordinator, at 425-430-6595, or [Wendy Kirchner](mailto:WendyKirchner@rentonwa.gov), Neighborhood Program Assistant, at 425-430-6594.

## Grant Us a Project!

It's time to take those future neighborhood projects and make them a reality! Applications for the 2009 Neighborhood Grant Program are now available. \$82,000 has been allocated for the 2009 program! **There will be Grant Workshop, Thursday, February 12, from 6pm to 7pm at Renton City Hall.**

Grants are available to residents who have organized themselves to plan and implement projects for the purpose of improving their neighborhoods. Eligible projects include physical improvements that build or en-

hance a feature of your neighborhood or benefit the general public. Projects to produce and distribute newsletters are also eligible for neighborhood grants. The typical grant is \$3,000 to \$5,000

per project although the actual amount is based on a project's merit and is determined by the Renton City Council. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 13, 2009.**

Awards will be announced in May 2009. For more information contact [Norma McQuiller](#), Neighborhood Program Coordinator, at 425-430-6595, or [Wendy Kirchner](#), Neighborhood Program Assistant, at 425-430-6594.



*The Vineyards identity sign reflects the name of the neighborhood.*

## Picnic Time

January is the time to think about starting fresh, making goals and planning your neighborhood picnic! Council member King Parker has a New Year's resolution, "to serve at least 5000 cups of lemonade during the city-sponsored neighborhood picnics this summer." Help Council Member Parker reach and surpass his goal by reserving your date for your neighborhood picnic! Please contact Norma McQuiller

[nmquiller@Rentonwa.gov](mailto:nmquiller@Rentonwa.gov) or Wendy Kirchner [wkirchner@Rentonwa.gov](mailto:wkirchner@Rentonwa.gov) for an application and available dates. The designated timeframe in which to hold a funded picnic is May 1st through the 2nd week of September (major holidays excluded). The deadline for applications is 8 weeks prior to the date of your picnic. You will receive a response to your application within 14 days of its receipt. Please note that funding and dates for picnics are limited.

The earlier the applications are submitted, the more likely the dates and funding will be available.



*"King" of Lemonade*

**Council Member King Parker plans "to serve at least 5000 cups of lemonade during the city-sponsored neighborhood picnics this summer."**

## Public Art in Neighborhoods



*Bench at Renton City Hall*

Does your neighborhood already have an identity sign depicting its characteristics? Another way to enhance the unique traits of your neighborhood is through public art.

Public art has many benefits for a community, from the beautification of an area and increased connectedness to a place, to enhancing creativity that sparks innovation and increases academic achievement. The Renton Municipal Arts Commission recognizes the importance of public art throughout the City of Renton, including in your residential neighborhood. Art Commissioners would like to offer Neighborhood Associations assistance in developing and implementing public art projects in neighborhoods. This could include brainstorming with community members about opportunities, connecting neighborhoods with public art resources, and offering assistance to work with artists to complete a project. The project will remain a Neighborhood Association project led by neighborhood leaders. The Commissioners provide assistance and expertise such as a consultant would – but for no cost!

For more information, contact

Jennifer Davis-Hayes

[jdavishayes@rentonwa.gov](mailto:jdavishayes@rentonwa.gov) or

425-430-6589



## Neighborhood Health & Safety

The Fire and Emergency Services Department is always open to speak to neighborhood associations ANY time. I

can have one of my managers (chief officers, director or assistant fire marshal), depending on the subject matter to

speak. I'll even show up as my schedule allows as will the firefighters from the neighborhood stations. In February, we'd like to come out and do blood pressure and blood sugar screening for

**"It wouldn't break my heart if we were invited to every neighborhood association meeting in the city at least once a year."**

**-Chief Daniels**

"Renton Heart Month".

Sometimes the folks are "in service" meaning they will have to go to an incident if they are notified; and sometimes they will be available for the entire meeting. Many of us are obviously on 24 hour call.

Our primary contact for community events is our Community Risk Reduction section: Bill Flora 425-430-7601 or [Bflora@Rentonwa.gov](mailto:Bflora@Rentonwa.gov) and Kelly Carey 425-430-7053 or [KCarey@Rentonwa.gov](mailto:KCarey@Rentonwa.gov). It wouldn't break my heart if we were invited to speak at every neighborhood

Chief Daniels and some of his crew



association meeting in the city at least once a year.

**- David Daniels, City of Renton Fire Chief/Emergency Administrator**

## Holiday Traditions

We held our first annual Neighborhood Christmas Caroling evening. About eight neighbors convened at our house on a Friday night in December for hot chocolate and cookies where we visited a bit, then handed out song sheets. By the time we embarked on our caroling journey, it was raining/snowing and quite chilly! We targeted several residents in our neighborhood, many of whom were older. Despite the cold wet night, it was very enjoyable to bring holiday cheer to several of our neighbors! We hope to make this an annual event. We also added a little holiday cheer to our North Renton Neighborhood sign.



Adorned for the holidays!

With all the snow on the ground, it really looked festive!

**- George & Sally Daniels, North Renton Neighborhood**

Our neighborhood holds an annual bonfire at the Gene Coulon Park North Picnic Shelter. Along with viewing all the lights, we enjoy hot cocoa, roasting marshmallows, making s'mores and caroling. It's a wonderful neighborhood tradition that has been drawing families year after year! My kids really look forward to it.



Kennydale kids keeping warm by the fire

**- Kim Browne, Kenndydale Neighborhood**

## Environmentally Friendly

Our Earlington Neighborhood Association has embarked on a project to clean-up and landscape a Right of Way side bank. We held two work parties in November with the purpose of digging out all the invasive weeds, cutting the grass and smothering all vegetation on the bank using the environmentally friendly technique called "sheet mulching." This technique involves covering the area with cardboard, spreading chips on top and putting it to bed for the winter keeping weeds from seeding. We will install new landscaping in the fall. All work was and will be done by



Earlington side bank before cleaning up

hand and with hand tools only.

**- Rhoda Green, Earlington Neighborhood**



Side bank after 'sheet mulching!'



## Neighbor To Neighbor

Editor, Wendy Kirchner

Neighborhood Program  
Staff

Norma McQuiller,  
Neighborhood Program  
Coordinator  
425-430-6595

[nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov](mailto:nmcquiller@rentonwa.gov)

Wendy Kirchner,  
Neighborhood Program  
Assistant  
425-430-6594  
[wkirchner@rentonwa.gov](mailto:wkirchner@rentonwa.gov)

[www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov)



## Proud to Be Recognized

At the December 8, 2008 City Council Meeting, fourteen neighborhoods were awarded certificates for grants approved during 2008 and eight new neighborhoods were introduced as successfully becoming "Officially Recognized Neighborhoods" with the City of Renton. Christopher Wagoner, a newly annexed resident from Huntington Heights, shares his insights on the evening ceremony:

*The presentation of newly recognized neighborhoods to the City Council and Mayor Law was important for establishing a cohesive group identity. Some neighborhoods must truly work to become organized, but as a condo association we already have an organizational structure. The downside is that perhaps at times we forget how fortunate we are to already have this governmental structure in place, taking for granted the benefits of living together as a neighborhood and not just individual families living in a high-density residential area.*

*At our recent annual meeting, I invited our unit owners to observe the presentation either in person or on Channel 21. Having recently been annexed into the City and therefore unfamiliar with the Channel 21 broadcasts, I'm not sure that anyone really did watch the Council meeting. However, being able to announce the presentation to our association reinforced that we are a collective body seeking to live in a better society and can work harmoniously to do so. The fact that I got to take home with me a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mayor Law and Council President Palmer made it even better. We are scanning it for use on our website and framing the original for display in our cabana. I am anxious to see the spirit of community spread throughout the neighborhood!*

**- Christopher Wagoner, Huntington Heights**



## Map Your Neighborhood

**"Map Your Neighborhood"** is a program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters and is offered through many local emergency management offices. The City of Renton Emergency Management Division will be happy to come to a neighborhood meeting to present information.

Learn the **"9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster"** to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following a disaster and these steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.

**Identify the Skills and Equipment** each neighbor has that would be useful in an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills helps your disaster response be timely, and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.

**Create a Neighborhood Map** identifying the locations of natural gas and propane tanks for quick response if needed.

**Create a Contact List** that helps identify those with specific needs such as elderly, disabled, or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.

**Work together as a team** to evaluate your neighborhood after a disaster.

**Remember: In a disaster, your most immediate sources of help are the people around you.**

Please contact Rachel Myers, City of Renton Emergency Management Intern & AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer @ 425-430-7054 or [rmyers@rentonwa.gov](mailto:rmyers@rentonwa.gov)